



LEVELING: FAQ

What is Leveling?

Leveling was created to allow exhibitors with like ability to compete against one another in the show ring.

What are the levels?

The levels for Amateur, Youth and Open classes within specific sections are Select, Choice and Elite. Reining also has levels, which are labeled Open and Non-Pro and are further defined by Intermediate, Limited and Rookie. Primetime is also considered a level for those 60 years of age and above in certain sections and 50 years of age and above in Reining Classes. For a table of the levels, visit http://www.arabianhorses.org/competitions/docs/Achievement_Leveling_101.pdf

How are the levels determined?

Levels are determined from Achievement Points, which are tabulated when AHA Recognized Shows are entered at AHA.

What is the difference between Achievement Leveling points & the Amateur Achievement Award points?

The points are similar in that they are calculated on the number of horses within the class. The difference is that not all current AHA sections are leveled.

# of Horses in Class	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
2-3	1/2				
4-7	1				
8-11	2	1			
12-15	3	2	1		
16-19	4	3	2	1	
20+	5	4	3	2	1

What are the sections in leveling and how are they defined?

A section is defined as a particular seat or discipline. Currently the sections AHA recognizes towards leveling are:

- **Western:** Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship/Equitation
- **Hunter Seat:** Hunter Pleasure, Hunter seat Equitation Not to Jump
- **Reining:** Reining, Reining Seat
- **Trail:** Trail (English & Western)
- **Saddle Seat:** Park, English, Country English, Saddle Seat Equitation, Show Hack



Are Achievement Leveling points obtained through Regional (includes Pacific Slope, East Coast, Eastern & Western Canadian Breeders) and National shows calculated differently than the chart above?

Yes, the points awarded depend on the placing (Champion, Res. Champion and Top Five/Six or Top Ten). Only 50% of the class receives points, not to exceed Five/Six or Ten.

	REGIONAL	NATIONAL
CHAMPION	12 PTS	30 PTS
RESERVE CHAMPION	6 PTS	20 PTS
TOP FIVE/SIX	4 PTS	
TOP TEN		10 PTS

Are there instances that points are not counted toward my Achievement Leveling status?

Yes, Achievement Leveling points are not calculated in any one horse class you participate in. Additionally, points are not counted in the case where you move from the Amateur to Open Achievement Levels.

Am I required to ride in the level that my points indicate I am at?

Yes, you must ride at your level. You may also ride up one level if the show does not offer age splits in that same section.

I wish to level up at a show, but I see the section I want to compete in offers age splits, can I level up?

There is an instance in which you can level up. Adult and Junior age splits in a particular section do not affect one another. If there are Junior age splits in Western Pleasure, they do not affect Adult Western Pleasure Leveling classes and the same is true for Junior leveling (Adult age splits do not affect Junior leveling.) If a show does run age splits in the Adult portion of the section, an Adult may not level up in that same section at that show.

Is a show required to run all leveling classes within a section?

No. For example, a show may choose to run a Select Western Pleasure AAO and a Choice Western Pleasure AAO. They are not required to run an Elite Western Pleasure AAO.

I have seen shows combine levels, is this class recognized by AHA?

Yes, a show may opt to combine levels such as Choice/Elite Western Pleasure AAO. The class will be coded with the class number for the “Choice” level as riders can compete up a level, not down. Combining levels helps shows as there may be less participants in the higher levels. The levels which may be combined are Select/Choice and Choice/Elite.



If a show runs only the "Select" level at a show, are they operating under the old Select rules?

No, the old Select definition no longer exists. Select is now defined by Achievement Leveling points and is no longer based on the number of Regional or National Top Five/Ten placings.

Can Dressage classes be leveled under the Achievement Leveling points?

No, Dressage classes are currently "leveled" by the class structure they are run under (Training, First, Second, etc.)

I see that certain classes can be leveled, why not other classes such as Sport Horse Under Saddle?

Only certain classes were originally considered when the Achievement Leveling Resolution was passed. Classes such as Sport Horse Under Saddle are currently being considered for leveling by the appropriate committee.

Why are only points from 2002 forward considered for placement in Achievement Leveling classes?

AHA started tracking all riders (previously it was only Equitation Riders who were tracked) in 2002 when the Amateur Achievement Award program was put into place.



Why haven't the National Shows added all the Achievement Leveling classes?

Currently Canadian and U.S. Nationals have the “Select” level added for Western, Hunter and Country English. Since this is a new program and National classes are considered in advance, the Choice and Elite levels may be considered for future inclusion should time restrictions allow.

I know of shows in which riders "leveled up" and yet the show also ran age splits within the section, how can this be?

If a show offers TBA slots and age splits are purchased at the show, riders who “leveled up” on their initial entry will not be penalized.

Am I required to "level up" during the year if I obtain enough points to bump me from a Select to Choice or Choice to Elite?

Your eligibility as a Select/Choice/Elite in a section on December 1 will be maintained throughout the entire competition year.

Will I ever be eligible to move back to a lower level?

Yes, you can return to a lower level in a particular section if you have not earned any points (at National, Regional or Regular Competition) in the past 10 consecutive years, in that defined section.



Do Achievement points earned by a youth effect their status when they become an adult?

Yes, any Achievement leveling points earned as a youth exhibitor cross over to their status as an adult.

NOTE: As passed in the “Leveling the Playing Field” resolution, the Competition Advisory Committee will review the Achievement Point structure annually and will make appropriate changes as needed. The leveling up restrictions are also under review at this time. Please direct any suggestions to the Competition Advisory Committee in care of the Competitions Department.

